

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 GSA-01 FEAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

/088 W

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R 200630Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2156

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DURBAN 0140

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ESTC, SF, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: SHARP INCREASE IN ORE SHIPMENTS THRU DURBAN

REFS: (A) DURBAN 0134 (B) DURBAN 0088

1. REF A SIGNALLED BEGINNING OF ARRIVAL IN DURBAN OF CARGOES PREVIOUSLY DESTINED FOR MOZAMBIQUE PORTS. MORE RECENT INFORMATION INDICATES INCREASED ORE LOADINGS MAY COMPRISE SIGNIFICANT PART OF TRAFFIC PRESUMABLY BEING RE-ROUTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS AND HARBORS (SARH) TO DURBAN.

2. MANAGER OF DURBAN HARBOR'S BULK HANDLING FACILITY ADVISED CONGEN APRIL 28 THAT A SECOND DUMPER HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM COAL TO ORE LOADING ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF APRIL. (REF B REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT AS OF MID-MARCH ONLY ONE OF THREE AVAILABLE DUMPERS WAS

HANDLING ORE.) MANAGER STATED HIS FACILITY "HAD NEVER BEEN BUSIER" WITH ORE TRAFFIC. RECENT MONTHLY METRIC TONNAGES EXPORTED ARE:

DECEMBER 1975 9,249 MT

JANUARY 1976 29,332 MT

FEBRUARY 1976 15,116 MT

MARCH 1976 19,760 MT

APRIL 1976 54,000 (ESTIMATED) MT.

3. MANAGER RECONFIRMED REF B INFORMATION THAT MAXIMUM THEORETICAL CAPACITY OF DURBAN'S TWO ORE DUMPERS IS ABOUT 120,000 MT/MONTH BUT ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF VARIOUS PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (RAIL AND SHIP SCHEDULING, CONTAMINATION), THIS RATE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ATTAINED IN PRACTICE.

4. MANAGER STATED ORES SHIPPED IN APRIL INCLUDE FERRO-MANGANESE AND CHROME. HE CLAIMED INABILITY TO SPECIFY WHETHER ORES HANDLED WERE FROM RHODESIA; HOWEVER HE "ASSUMED" THAT ALL ORES ARRIVING FROM ISIPINGO DUMP OPERATED BY RENNIES CONSOLIDATED (A MAJOR DURBAN SHIPPING AGENT) WERE OF RHODESIAN ORIGIN. HE CURRENTLY WAS PREPARING TO LOAD A LARGE CONSIGNMENT FROM THIS DUMP - AN ESTIMATED 20,000 MT SHIPMENT.

5.1 COMMENT: IT APPEARS DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY SARH TO CUT COUP
ND INCREASE ORE LOADINGS THROUGH DURBAN. WE ARE
STILL UNCECTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT -- GIVEN PRACTICAL CAPACITY OF
MUCH LESS THAN 120,000 MT/MONTH -- DURBAN WILL BE ABLE TO
ALLEViate OR SHIPMENT PROBLEMS OCCASIONED BY RE-ROUTED RHODESIA
TRAFFIC OR POSSIBLE FUTURE DECLINE IN MAPUTO PORT CAPABILITY.
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO LEARN WHAT THESE RE-ROUTED TONNAGES ARE
LIKELY TO BE.
FARBER

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